

THE HOBOKEN SHADE TREE COMMISSION

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DAWN ZIMMER
Mayor



Diana Davis, Chairwoman
Peter Bakarich, III, Commissioner
Peter Cossio, Commissioner
Amy Sommer, Commissioner
Ken Missbrenner, 1st Alternate

Minutes of the August 14, 2017 Shade Tree Commission Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:08pm.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Commissioners: Bakarich, Cossio, Sommer, 1st Alternate Ken Missbrenner and Chairwoman Diana Davis

Also present: Chris Brown, liaison for Department of Environmental Services, and Daisy Amado, commission secretary

AGENDA:

1. Approval of the minutes of the July 10, 2017 commission meeting

Commissioner Bakarich made a motion to approve the minutes with a second from Commissioner Cossio with all members present in favor.

2. Chair's Report

- Spring tree planting – there were sixty one (61) trees planted and there are three (3) trees not planted yet.
- 1212 Washington Street in front of the “little grocery store” on May 5th a Verizon truck ran over a tree which toppled, they also almost hit two pedestrians. Owners of grocery store asked if we could help. Chair has been on the phone extensively with Verizon trying to have them look at it. Verizon chopped down the tree and left the trunk and roots. Verizon asked if we could remove trunk and Chair said if they pay for it we would.

AGENDA TAKEN OUT OF ORDER

- Washington Street Project (originally agenda item #3) – chair walked entire Washington Street with the project engineer. There are eight (8) trees identified as wanting to save. We are also trying to save some trees that will be removed but not replaced due to fire hydrants, drains, etc. Chairwoman will email list to Commissioners once she receives same. Ken Missbrenner inquired whether the removed trees will be preserved. Discussion ensued. We are not sure of start date on this project.
- County Streets - Chairwoman spoke with Mario in Jersey City who is in charge of streets for Hudson County. She provided him with a list of dead trees on Willow and Park (both County roads) and he agreed to have them removed. We will be advised when this will happen. We are not sure if they will put up new trees.

- Street Tree Species - Commission voted and reviewed it once. It was advised by an outside arborist that the Sweetgum tree has lateral growth. The arborist also recommended that we remove the Kentucky Coffeebean tree and the Red Oak. It was recommended that we add the European Hornbeam tree – it is on our list, number 23. Discussion ensued as to Ohio Buckeye tree – Commission decided not to add the Ohio Buckeye tree to our list.
- No Parking signs posted on trees – when signs are posted they are taped completely around the trunks of trees and a box cutter is used when taking down the signs. Chairwoman spoke with the Hoboken Parking Utility and Director John Morgan who will talk to his employees.

3. Washington Street - this item was discussed in the Chair's Report.

4. PSE&G Funds – Suggestions for Use

We have approximately \$60,000 and the Commission suggested we use these funds for the removal of dead trees. There were no other suggestions made.

Commissioner Missbrenner made a motion to use the PSE&G funds to remove dead trees with a second from Commissioner Cossio with all members present in favor.

Discussion ensued as to actually walking around and looking at dead trees on all streets except County roads. Chairwoman to ask Mario from Jersey City for a list of East/West county streets. Dead tree on 14th between Garden. Discussion as to Commission sending out to bid and selecting. There are 200 dead trees in Hoboken and we can remove. Notice should be sent to home owners prior to removal. Commissioner Bakarich will reach out to Stevens students so they could assist by taking pictures, then Commission could review. Chairwoman will give them a list of dead trees.

5. Tree Removal/Trim Permit – Vote on Revisions

Chairwoman advised that she read a City Ordinance that says the Shade Tree Commission has the authority to issue summonses if someone topps a tree. Discuss ensued. Commission suggested the permit form should say “one of two” or “see back.” Discussion ensued as to possibly taking an ad out in the Hoboken Reporter saying something to the effect of “did you know you need a permit to remove or to trim a tree.”

AGENDA TAKEN OUT OF ORDER

6. Review & Recommendations for: 644 Washington Street

This property is at the corner of 6th and Washington. Commissioner Sommer showed pictures from her cell phone and Commission reviewed and discussed plans. Commissioner Sommer advised there is a utility pole, guy wire, utility cap, electrical box, a No Turn On Red sign, and a fire hydrant here. Due to construction and all the items here the Commission finds there is no room for a tree. Discussion ensued as to having developer contribute towards a tree between \$1200 to \$1500, price per tree.

A motion was made to have developer contribute towards a tree since there is no where they can plant one in front of this property and Commission will use the money for Spring Tree planting by Commissioner Cossio with a second from Commissioner Sommer with all members present in favor.

7. Location Suggestions on six trees to be planted by developer

Chairwoman advised there are no trees in front of Church Towers and we could have all six trees planted there. Commissioner Cossio asked if the developer will be responsible for maintaining the trees at least for the first two years. Chairwoman mentioned the developer lives across the street from Church Towers. Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Sommer made a motion to allow developer to plant all six trees in front of Church Towers on the west side of the street with a second from Commissioner Cossio with all members present in favor.

8. Re-Vote on 600 Harrison Street – two trees instead of three

Chairwoman advised the City got rid of one of the pits for a walkway, so the pit is gone and there is now a crosswalk at this location. One tree has been planted and they need to plant another. Chairwoman needs to clarify: if the tree will be planted in front of the building and ensure developer will be responsible for the maintenance of the tree. Discussion as to cobble stones removed and replaced with wood mulch.

Commissioner Misbrenner made a motion to approve with a second from Commissioner Cossio with all members present in favor.

Commissioner Cossio requested to go on the record stating the developer should be responsible for the maintenance of the two trees.

9. Tree protection guidelines for construction sites – Commissioner Bakarich

Commissioner Bakarich provided two handouts for the Commission's review from the New York City Department of Transportation – Protective Tree Barrier. Chairwoman asked if he could place our logo on it. Discussion as to wrapping the tree. Commissioner Sommer mentioned she would send Commissioner Bakarich the parks detail so he could incorporate. Chairwoman asked Commissioner Bakarich if he could have this document prepared for review by the Commission for the September meeting.

10. Public Comments (limited to five minutes per person)

No members of the public appeared before the Commission.

11. New Business

- Commissioner Cossio mentioned two trees planted at 341 Garden in a grate. Chairwoman asked if we approved this – she will ask the Planning Board. Commissioner Cossio will call them and have the grates pulled.
- Commissioner Misbrenner mentioned that the tree pits he painted were not cut to the specification at Third Street by Fish store. Commissioners made an effort to walk around and mark up the pits. Discussion ensued as to Catholic School on Madison and cobblestones underneath sidewalk.
- Chris Brown advised we should never use Aspen Contracting as there was an issue with SouthWest Park.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Commissioner Misbrenner and seconded by Commissioner Cossio with all members present in favor.

Meeting concluded at 8:19 p.m.